APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/519,861	12/29/2004	Yasuo Ishiguro	82478-9900	9295

21611   7590   10/17/2007

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2167	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
10/17/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/519,861	ISHIGURO ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Sherief Badawi	2167	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>*19 July 2007*</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>*1,5 and 13-18*</u> is/are pending in the application.

  4a) Of the above claim(s) <u>*2-4 and 6-12*</u> is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>*1,5 and 13-18*</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>*19 July 2007*</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

  a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

  1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

  2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

  3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
  Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>*12-29-2004 and 3-23-2007*</u>.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
  Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1.   The Amendment filed on July 19, 2007 has been received and entered. Application

10/519,861 Claims 1, 5 and 13-18 are now pending claims 2-4 and 6-12 have been cancelled and

claims 15-18 are new.

Response to Amendment

2.   Applicants Amendment has overcome the previous, Drawings and claim objections and

rejections under 35 USC 112. The rejection therefore, withdrawn.

Election/Restrictions

3.   Newly submitted claim 15 is directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the

invention originally claimed for the following reasons:

Independent claims **1, 13 and 14**, describe a database that stores search targets, with

display flags and search entries and categories that are used to help customize and narrow

search strategies. Furthermore the GUI interface is operable to receive user selections and

customize the interface accordingly and also search target database accordingly

Independent **Claim 15** describes the actual structure and the components or

categories of the search fields

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention,

this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits.

Accordingly, claim 15 is withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under the section made in this office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5.   **Claims 1, 5, 13, 14 and 16** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kraft

et al. (US 6,137,488) Date of Patent October 24, 2000.

As per **Claim 1**, Kraft discloses a patent information searching apparatus for searching a

database based on a search criterion entered by a user, the patent information searching apparatus

comprising:

a database that stores a plurality of pieces of patent information data as search a field information

holding unit operable to hold, **(See Column.6, lines 20-28, wherein a patent data base**

information search fields is disclosed; as taught by Kraft)

for each of search purposes corresponding to procedures relating to patent, field

information and to hide any of the plurality of data entry fields not indicated by the held field

information, **(See Fig.4 wherein added fields are displayed and fields not indicated to be**

added are hidden; as taught by Kraft) as display flags that correspond one-to-one to data-entry

fields to be used by the user for entering the search criterion, **(See Fig.4, wherein the display flag**

+ corresponds to search criterion to be entered by the user; as taught by Kraft) and that each

indicates whether or not to display a corresponding one of the data-entry fields, **(See Fig. 5,**

wherein the + and − signs indicate either to display the data entry field; as taught by Kraft) ,

wherein and further hold character string data for displaying names of categories of the data-entry

fields, **(See Fig. 5, wherein the entry filed includes character string data to display category**

names; as taught by Kraft) and character string data for displaying names of the data-entry fields,

(See Fig. 5, wherein the entry filed includes character string data to display category names;

as taught by Kraft) each data-entry field being categorized in any of the categories including a

classification category, a number category, a date category, a unique-name category and a text

category; **(See Column.2, lines 15-22 and Column.6, lines 20-30, user selects the desired**

classification entry from a list of available classification entries, if the form being completed

is a patent database search query, some exemplary classification entries might be:

"description," "title," "inventor," "assignee," "licensee," "year," and a generic category

for data not belonging in the listed classification entries; as taught by Kraft) a category display

unit operable to display a list of the categories using the character string data for displaying the

names of the categories; **(See Column.6, lines 7-48, wherein a patent data base information**

search fields is disclosed, wherein category fields can be added and removed from the

search using flags, wherein the fields correspond to text fields and classification fields, year

name; as taught by Kraft)

a category receiving unit operable to receive, from the user, a selection of one or more

categories from the list of the categories; **(See Column.6, lines 20-27, wherein a list of categories**

is displayed where a user can select form; as taught Kraft)

a field list display unit operable to display a list of data-entry fields in each of the selected

categories using the character string data for displaying the names of the data-entry fields, and not to

display a list of data-entry fields in the other categories that are not selected; **(See Column.6, lines**

28-36, wherein the data entry field could be a preprogrammed list of expected input data; as taught by Kraft)

a field receiving unit operable to receive, from the user, a selection of one or more data-entry fields that are to be used for conducting the search from the data-entry fields displayed in the list; **(See Column.6, lines 28-36, wherein the data entry fields that are populated with common preprogrammed values could be selected; as taught by Kraft)**

an update unit operable to update the field information by setting display flags corresponding to the selected data-entry fields and clearing display flags corresponding to data-entry, fields not selected by the user; **(See Column.6, lines 38-55, see Fig. 4, wherein the entry and classification fields can be added and removed, wherein when the entry field is removed the display removes the entry field and its flags; as taught by Kraft)**

a field display unit operable, in accordance with the field information, to display the data-entry fields for which the display flags have been set, and not display the data-entry fields for which the display flags have been cleared; **(See Column.6, lines 38-55, see Fig. 4, wherein the entry and classification fields and be added and removed using, the interface3 changes based on adding additional field templates; as taught by Kraft)**

a data searching unit operable to receive the search criterion entered in the data- entry fields displayed by the field display unit, and search for data matching the received search criterion; **(See Column.8, lines 20-25, allows the user to create sophisticated search terms by indenting the appropriate field templates; as taught Kraft)**

and a search result display unit operable to display a result of the search conducted by the data searching unit; **(See Column.14, lines 20-30, which receives the completed form, identifies**

any patents that satisfy the criterion set forth in the field templates, and returns a listing of those patents to the user; as taught by Kraft).

As per **Claim 5**, the rejection of claim 1 is hereby incorporated by reference; Kraft further discloses the category display unit displays the list of the categories on a screen where the data-entry fields are displayed by the field display unit, the field list display unit displays the list of the data-entry fields on the screen where the data-entry fields are displayed by the field display unit, and the field display unit updates the displayed data-entry fields immediately when the field receiving unit receives the selection of the data-entry fields; **(See Column.7, lines 1-16, wherein additional entry field is displayed after a selection to do so; as taught by Kraft).**

As per **Claim 13**, Kraft discloses a patent information searching method for searching, using a patent information searching apparatus, for a desired piece of patent information data based on a search criterion entered by a user, the patent information searching apparatus comprising:

a database that stores a plurality of pieces of patent information data as search targets; **(See Column.6, lines 20-28, wherein a patent data base information search fields is disclosed; as taught by Kraft)**

and a field information holding unit operable to hold, for each of search purposes corresponding to procedures relating to a patent, **(See Fig.4 wherein added fields are displayed and fields not indicated to be added are hidden; as taught by Kraft)** field information as display flags that correspond one-to-one to data-entry fields to be used by the user for entering the

search criterion, **(See Fig.4, wherein the display flag + corresponds to search criterion to be entered by the user; as taught by Kraft)** and that each indicates whether or not to display a corresponding one of the data-entry fields, **(See Fig. 5, wherein the + and – signs indicate either to display the data entry field; as taught by Kraft)** and further hold character string data for displaying names of categories of the data-entry fields, **(See Fig. 5, wherein the entry filed includes character string data to display category names; as taught by Kraft)** and character string data for displaying names of the'data-entry fields, **(See Fig. 5, wherein the entry filed includes character string data to display category names; as taught by Kraft)** each data-entry field being categorized in any of the categories including a classification category, a number category, a date category, a unique-name category and a text category, **(See Column.2, lines 15-22 and Column.6, lines 20-30, user selects the desired classification entry from a list of available classification entries, if the form being completed is a patent database search query, some exemplary classification entries might be: "description," "title," "inventor," "assignee," "licensee," "year," and a generic category for data not belonging in the listed classification entries; as taught by Kraft)** and the patent information searching method comprising: a category, display step of displaying a list of the categories using the character string data for displaying the names of the categories; **(See Column.6, lines 7-48, wherein a patent data base information search fields is disclosed, wherein category fields can be added and removed from the search using flags, wherein the fields correspond to text fields and classification fields, year name; as taught by Kraft)**

a category receiving step of receiving, from the user, a selection of one or more categories from the list of the categories; **(See Column.6, lines 20-27, wherein a list of categories is displayed where a user can select form; as taught Kraft)**

a field list display step of displaying a list of data-entry fields in each of the selected

categories using the character string data for displaying the names of the data-entry fields, and not to

displaying a list of data-entry fields in the other categories that are not selected; **(See Column.6,**

lines 28-36, wherein the data entry field could be a preprogrammed list of expected input

data; as taught by Kraft)

a field receiving step of receiving, from the user, a selection of one or more data- entry

fields that are to be used for conducting the search from the data-entry fields displayed in the list;

(See Column.6, lines 28-36, wherein the data entry fields that are populated with common

preprogrammed values could be selected; as taught by Kraft)

an update step of updating the field information by setting display flags corresponding to the

selected data-entry fields and clearing display flags corresponding to data- entry fields not selected by

the user; **(See Column.6, lines 38-55, see Fig. 4, wherein the entry and classification fields can**

be added and removed, wherein when the entry field is removed the display removes the

entry field and its flags; as taught by Kraft)

a field display step of, in accordance with the field information, displaying the data-entry

fields for which the display flags have been set, and not displaying the data-entry fields for which the

display flags have been cleared; **(See Column.6, lines 38-55, see Fig. 4, wherein the entry and**

classification fields and be added and removed using, the interface3 changes based on

adding additional field templates; as taught by Kraft)

a data searching step of receiving the search criterion entered in the data-entry fields

displayed in the field display step, and searching for data matching the received search criterion; **(See**

Column.8, lines 20-25, allows the user to create sophisticated search terms by indenting the

appropriate field templates; as taught Kraft) .

and a search result display step of displaying a result of the search conducted in the data

searching step; **(See Column.14, lines 20-30, which receives the completed form, identifies any**

patents that satisfy the criterion set forth in the field templates, and returns a listing of those

patents to the user; as taught by Kraft).

As per **<u>Claim 14</u>**, Kraft discloses a patent information searching program for

searching, using a patent information searching apparatus, for a desired piece of

patent information data based on a search criterion entered by a user, the patent information

searching apparatus comprising; **(See Column.6, lines 20-28, wherein a patent data base**

information search fields is disclosed; as taught by Kraft)

a database that stores a plurality of pieces of patent information data as search

targets; **(See Column.6, lines 20-28, wherein a patent data base information search fields is**

disclosed; as taught by Kraft)

and a field information holding unit operable to hold, for each of search purposes

corresponding to procedures relating to a patent, **(See Fig.4, wherein the field information used**

to seach patent related information; as taught by Kraft) field information as display flags that

correspond one-to-one to data-entry fields to be used by the user for entering the search criterion,

(See Fig.4, wherein the display flag + corresponds to search criterion to be entered by the

user; as taught by Kraft) and that each indicates whether or not to display a corresponding one of

the data-entry fields, **(See Fig. 5, wherein the + and − signs indicate either to display the data**

entry field; as taught by Kraft) and further hold character string data for displaying names of

categories of the data-entry fields, **(See Fig. 5, wherein the entry filed includes character string**

data to display category names; as taught by Kraft) and character string data for displaying

names of the data-entry fields, **(See Fig. 5, wherein the entry filed includes character string**

data to display category names; as taught by Kraft) each data-entry field being categorized in

any of the categories including a classification category, a number category, a date category, a

unique-name category and a text category, **(See Column.2, lines 15-22 and Column.6, lines 20-**

30, user selects the desired classification entry from a list of available classification entries, if

the form being completed is a patent database search query, some exemplary classification

entries might be: "description," "title," "inventor," "assignee," "licensee," "year," and a

generic category for data not belonging in the listed classification entries; as taught by

Kraft) and the patent information searching program causes the patent information searching

apparatus to execute: **(See Column.6, lines 7-48, wherein a patent data base information**

search fields is disclosed, wherein category fields can be added and removed from the

search using flags, wherein the fields correspond to text fields and classification fields, year

name; as taught by Kraft)

a category display step of displaying a list of the categories using the character string data for

displaying the names of the categories; **(See Column.6, lines 20-27, wherein a list of categories is**

displayed where a user can select form; as taught Kraft)

a category receiving step of receiving, from the user, a selection of one or more categories

from the list of the categories; **(See Column.6, lines 20-27, wherein a list of categories is**

displayed where a user can select form; as taught Kraft)

a field list display step of displaying a list of data-entry fields in each of the selected

categories using the character string data for displaying the names of the data-entry fields, and not to

displaying a list of data-entry fields in the other categories that are not selected; **(See Column.6,**

lines 28-36, wherein the data entry field could be a preprogrammed list of expected input

data; as taught by Kraft)

a field receiving step of receiving, from the user, a selection of one or more data- entry fields

that are to be used for conducting the search from the data-entry fields displayed in the list; **(See**

Column.6, lines 28-36, wherein the data entry fields that are populated with common

preprogrammed values could be selected; as taught by Kraft)

an update step of updating the field information by setting display flags corresponding to the

selected data-entry fields and clearing display flags corresponding to data- entry_ fields not selected

by the user; **(See Column.6, lines 38-55, see Fig. 4, wherein the entry and classification fields**

can be added and removed, wherein when the entry field is removed the display removes the

entry field and its flags; as taught by Kraft)

a field display step of, in accordance with the field information, displaying the data-entry

fields for which the display flags have been set, and not displaying the data-entry fields for which the

display flags have been cleared; **(See Column.6, lines 38-55, see Fig. 4, wherein the entry and**

classification fields and be added and removed using, the interface3 changes based on

adding additional field templates; as taught by Kraft)

a data searching step of receiving the search criterion entered in the data-entry fields

displayed in the field display step, and searching for data matching the received search criterion; **(See**

Column.8, lines 20-25, allows the user to create sophisticated search terms by indenting the

appropriate field templates; as taught Kraft)

a search result display step of displaying a result of the search conducted in the data

searching step; **(See Column.14, lines 20-30, which receives the completed form, identifies any**

patents that satisfy the criterion set forth in the field templates, and returns a listing of those

patents to the user; as taught by Kraft).

As per **Claim 16**, the rejection of claim 1 is hereby incorporated by reference; Kraft discloses

the field receiving unit receives from the user, a selection two or more data-entry fields that are to be

used for conducting the search from the data-entry fields displayed in the list; **(See Column.6, lines**

20-27, wherein a list of categories is displayed where a user can select form, See Column.6,

lines 28-36, wherein the data entry field could be a preprogrammed list of expected input

data, wherein the in the list two or more selection can be made, wherein the entry filed

could be a checkable list, See Column.6, lines 10-25; as taught Kraft)

the update unit updates the field information by setting display flags corresponding to the

two or more selected data-entry fields and clearing display flags corresponding to data-entry fields

not selected by the user, **(See Column.6, lines 38-55, see Fig. 4, wherein the entry and**

classification fields can be added and removed, wherein when the entry field is removed the

display removes the entry field and its flags; as taught by Kraft)

and the field display unit, in accordance with the field information, simultaneously displays

the two or more data-entry fields for which the display flags have been set, and not display the data-

entry fields for which the display flags have been cleared; **(See Column.6, lines 38-55, see Fig. 4,**

wherein the entry and classification fields can be added wherein the display adds the field

with the flag indication of addition and removed, wherein when the entry field is removed

the display removes the entry field and its flags; as taught by Kraft)

6.   **Claim 17,** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraft et al. (US

6,137,488) Date of Patent October 24, 2000, further in view of Dasan et al. (US 5,761,662) Date of

Patent June 2, 1998

As per **Claim 17,** the rejection of claim 1 is hereby incorporated by reference, Kraft fails to

disclose a user ID input unit to accept a user ID wherein the display flags are associated with the

user ID such that the display flags are preserved when the user ID is accepted at a subsequent

period of time.

On the other hand Dasan teaches a user ID input unit to accept a user ID wherein the

display flags are associated with the user ID such that the display flags are preserved when the user

ID is accepted at a subsequent period of time; **(retrieving information based on a user-defined**

profile (e.g. a personalized newspaper). A user-controlled client establishes communication

with a stateless server, the server presenting a list of options to the client (e.g. via Hypertext

Transfer Protocol (HTTP) exchanges) between the server and the client. The client

provides an identification of the user-defined profile. The server engages a first application

program (e.g. via a Common Gateway Interface (CGI)), the first application program

retrieving the user-defined profile wherein the user-defined profile identifies information

which is of interest to the user; Paragraph.10, lines 1-10; as taught by Dasan).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the computer art at

the time of the invention was made to incorporate the Dasan teachings to Kraft system. One skilled

in the art at the time of the invention would have found it motivating to use personalized

information retrieval system of Dasan into the full-text search and query system of Kraft for the

purpose retrieving data from a server based upon a defined and stored user profile of desired

information; **[Paragraph.28, lines 1-3] as taught by Dasan.** In addition, the references (Dasan and Kraft) teach features that are directed to analogous art and they are directed to the same field of endeavor, such as, querying databases. This close relation between both of the references highly suggests an expectation of success.

7.   <u>Claim 18,</u> is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraft et al. (US 6,137,488) Date of Patent October 24, 2000, in view of Dasan et al. (US 5,761,662) Date of Patent June 2, 1998, and further in view of Kasahara et al. (US 5,123,088) Date of Patent June 16, 1992

As per **Claim 18**, the rejection of claim 17 is hereby incorporated by reference, Kraft discloses wherein the display flags have been set, and the display flags have been cleared; **(See Column.6, lines 7-48, wherein entry field display flags are used to add or remove fields; as taught by Kraft).** However Kraft is silent with respect to having the display flags with associated values 1 and 0.

On the other hand Kasahara teaches to having display flags with associated values 1 and 0; **(See Column.7, lines 56-60; wherein display flags are hold the values 1 and 0; as taught by Kasahara)**

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the computer art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the Kasahara teachings to the combined Dasan and Kraft system. One skilled in the art at the time of the invention would have found it motivating use different display flag values to easily distinguish between visible and invisible entry fields. In addition, the references (Kasahara, Dasan and Kraft) teach features that are directed to analogous art

and they are directed to the same field of endeavor, such as, display or view properties. This close

relation between both of the references highly suggests an expectation of success.

Response to Arguments

8.   Applicant's arguments with have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s)

of rejection.

Conclusion

9.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office

action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is

reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

> *A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.*

10.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure. See PTO-Form 892 for listed of cited references.

Point of Contact

11.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to Sherief Badawi whose telephone number is (571) 272-9782. The examiner can

normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30-5:00, Alt Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,

John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization

where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system,

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assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

10-4-2007

Sherief Badawi
Art Unit 2167

JOHN COTTINGHAM
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